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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1227th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 May 2019

**On Europe Day**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to exercise our right of reply to the statement by the distinguished representative of Ukraine.

First of all, we should like to emphasize that Europe Day would not have been possible in principle without victory in the Second World War.

The Ukrainian representative affirms that the memory of this tragic war is preserved in his country. At the same time, Ukraine is the only OSCE participating State in which Nazi units, for example Right Sector, are incorporated in the security forces. Neo-Nazi formations remain active in the country. Swastikas and other Nazi symbols and torchlit processions are commonplace, and monuments to Soviet soldiers are desecrated. Such manifestations are becoming everyday occurrences in Ukraine. This makes a blatant mockery of the historical memory of the Ukrainian people, who suffered huge losses during the Great Patriotic War.

Against this background, the Government in Kyiv continues to pursue a deliberate policy of falsification of the country's recent history. The Ukrainian authorities attempt to whitewash Nazi accomplices and war criminals – members of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army – and present them as freedom fighters. And yet these people have on their conscience thousands of killed or tortured civilians of different nationalities – Ukrainians, Russians, Poles, Jews, and others. The Nazi criminals Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych are presented to the public as heroes.

Obviously, the existence of such a “moral compass” explains why Ukraine, along with one other OSCE participating State, is in an absolute minority in voting every year in the United Nations General Assembly against the resolution on combating the glorification of Nazism.

The recent report on neo-Nazism by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia provides detailed information about the glorification of Nazism in Ukraine. The document was published a few days ago on the Ministry's website.

The consequences of the policy of the “Maidan authorities” of cultivating the idea of radical nationalism give rise to serious concern. We are seeing a growth in the influence of modern-day advocates of Nazism from groups such as C14, Brotherhood, Right Sector, Azov, White Hammer, National Corps and Freedom. International institutions and human rights organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in its 2018 thematic report on civil liberties in Ukraine, note the inability of the State to protect at-risk groups among ordinary citizens, the lack of investigations and the impunity for offences committed by ultra-right nationalists, the failure of the authorities to ensure security for peaceful assemblies and the inaction of the law enforcement forces in the face of the excesses by radical nationalists. This year again, as we have already stated, the Victory Day celebrations were overshadowed by such excesses. Civil unrest of this type takes place every year with the complicity of the authorities.

It is for that reason that we firmly believe that the pooling of efforts to combat the resurgence of Nazism is particularly relevant in the context of celebrating peace and unity in the countries of Europe.

Thank you for your attention.